



Lead Free Wheel Weights

REPLACE LEAD WHEEL WEIGHTS WITH ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS



Wheel weights are clipped to the rims of automobile wheels and serve the function of balancing the wheel and tire. Recent studies have documented that on average, about 1.6 million pounds of wheel weights are released into the environment annually through poor installation and wear and tear. These weights may be washed into storm sewers during rainfall events, which can result in the contamination for surface water, ground water, and drinking water. By switching to lead free wheel weights, facilities can contribute to a reduction in the amount of harmful lead that enters the environment.



Join EPA's New Voluntary Program and Gain Recognition for Your Facility

EPA's [National Lead Free Wheel Weight Initiative](#) (NLFWWI) is working to phase out the use of lead wheel weights. The NLFWWI works in concert with the [National Partnership for Environmental Priorities](#) (NPEP), an EPA program that highlights waste minimization efforts by showcasing members who are working towards source reduction and environmentally sound recycling. By joining the NLFWWI (and NPEP), your facility will receive public recognition as well as publicity. Your achievements and successes will be posted on the program websites. You will also receive membership plaques and achievement awards for public display. Upon request, the EPA will notify local media of your achievements, and you will be able to use the NPEP and NLFWWI logos in your facility and on publications.

Blacksburg Says "NO!" to Lead Weights

Many current Virginia NPEP members are doing great work to reduce the prevalence of lead by investing in lead free wheel weight technology. By offering these technologies to their customers and installing them in their own vehicle fleets, they have seen firsthand the immense benefits of using such a product. For example, in 2006 the **Town of Blacksburg** became the first local government to join the NLFWWI. In receiving a grant as part of the EPA's [Resource Conservation Challenge](#), the Town worked with a number of local service stations such as **M&M Tire and Auto Inc.**, **South Main Auto Service** and **Thompson Tire Company Inc.** to phase out the usage of lead products. To date, the effort has reduced the use of lead by 350 pounds per year!

Choosing an Alternative to Lead

In choosing an alternative to a lead wheel weight, it is important that the product meet a number of specifications such as durability, resistance to corrosion, adequate density to minimize the size of the weight, and a smooth finish for aesthetics. In addition, it is important that the product have a minimal effect on the surrounding environment.

If you have questions or comments, please contact
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